



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Douglass Brazy
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

April 25, 2019

Subject: NTSB investigation ERA19FA155, N9693E, Bellanca 17-30A, Henderson, Kentucky, April 23, 2019.

On April 25, 2019 during a briefing at the airport, the Kentucky State Police provided the following information:

When the control tower staff arrived at work on the morning of the accident, they discovered the airplane on the airport property.

The first responders from the Henderson City Fire department and the Smith Mills Fire Department arrived at 0730, they did not smell fuel at the scene.

Police received 6 to 7 calls the previous evening with reports of hearing low flying airplane and or a "boom" sound sometime between 2000 and 2230. There was a thunderstorm in the area at one time in the evening.

The owner of the airplane, Jonathan Byler, reported that the student pilot was interested in purchasing the airplane, and had flown in it with an instructor earlier in the day. He was not aware that the student took the airplane for the accident flight.

The student pilot's wife reported that she thought the destination was somewhere in Tennessee. The passenger's fiancé reported that she thought the destination was somewhere in Oregon.

FBO staff at the airport advised that the airport had closed at 1930. Overnight, the pilot controlled lighting remains active, and defaults to the low setting. The rotating beacon remains on. The lighting system does not have a recording or logging feature to track activations or changes in intensity.

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